

December 2026

the VINE

Dear GAUMC Members and Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year,” we sing. The spirit of festivity and goodwill is in the air. Without Christmas, December would be cold and dreary.

Jesus came as the light of the world when the world was in darkness. Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God when the world was ruled by political, military, economic, and religious elites. Jesus preached the Good News of God’s love and mercy for all humanity in a world filled with inequality, injustice, and oppression.

Jesus was not interested in self-glorification. Rather, he was devoted to surrendering himself to the divine will, even to the point of sacrificing his life for God and humanity. Because Jesus surrendered himself to the divine will, “God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name” (Philippians 2:9).

Historian H.G. Wells is often quoted as saying, “I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.”

The whole world celebrates the coming of Jesus. We decorate Christmas trees, bake Christmas cookies, send Christmas cards, sing Christmas carols, and give and receive Christmas presents. But let us not forget that Jesus is the reason for the season. The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem means little unless Christ is also born in our hearts.

Some people may worship money, power, and their own egos as their gods. But we, as Christians, worship the God who came among us in the person of a humble Jewish carpenter who gave his life in loving God and loving humanity.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace” (Luke 2:14).

“For all that has been, Thanks! To all that shall be, Yes!” — Dag Hammarskjöld

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Jerry Cho

920-373-3081

CELEBRATE



December Birthdays

Lila Lentz	2	Mark Davis	21
Dan Benning	7	Michael Lueptow	21
Joyce Kirkendall	10	Amanda Penkivech	21
Henry Weltin	14	Ava Lentz	22
Emily Betker	16	Mike Vernon	25
Beth Davis	16	Barb Jones	27
Carol O'Mara	17		

December Anniversaries

Mark & Beth Breuer	16
Scott & Sue Penkivech	23
Dan & Lynn Benning	29
Mike & Geny Vernon	29

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you, Volunteers, for serving in our ministry!

Date	Usher	Liturgist	Cupbearers	Coffee Host	AV
12/6	Larry Maechtle	Mark Grams	***Needed****	Sandy & Mark Grams	Scott Penkivech
12/13	Larry Maechtle	Sandy Grams	n/a	***Needed****	Scott Penkivech
12/20	Larry Maechtle	Cathy Guse	n/a	***Needed****	Scott Penkivech
12/24	Larry Maechtle	***Multiple needed***	n/a	n/a	Scott Penkivech
12/27	Larry Maechtle	Jan Young	n/a	***Needed****	Scott Penkivech

*Please see sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christmas Music Needed

Want To Make A Joyful Noise?

The Music Committee is looking for musicians who would like to share their talents with our congregation throughout the Advent and Christmas Season, including Christmas Eve! Classical, Contemporary, Folk, Country, Soul….Solos, Duets, Trios, Quartets…Instrumental also desired and welcome! WE LOVE it ALL!

Let us know the title, composer, and when you would like to perform. We will find the perfect spot to place your musical offering in worship!

See Ardelle Dionne, Sue Merrill, or Stacy in the GAUMC Office if interested.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Current Needs

Paper Towels (high priority), Shower Curtain Liners, Men's Incontinence Underwear Size S/M, Ibuprofen, Disinfecting Wipes, Facial Tissue, Women's Body Wash, Women's disposable Razors (3 blade), Twin-size mattress pads, Clorox Clean-up Cleaner, and Lysol disinfecting spray.

See the Portlight Shelter Amazon Wish List for more information.

Holiday Needs

Cream of Mushroom soup, French Fried Onions, Boxed Potatoes, Yams, Canned Pumpkin, Evaporated Milk, Muffin Mix, Gravy, Stuffing, Broth, Cranberry Sauce, and Jello.



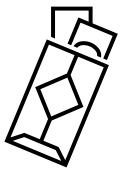
Giving Tree



Our giving tree in the narthex is back in use to help spread a little holiday joy to our neighbors in need. You can take a tag off the tree to purchase an item for The Port Food Pantry or Family Promise. **Please place unwrapped items under the tree by Dec. 1st.**



RaiseRight Gift Cards



You can order gift cards for popular stores using our RaiseRight Scrip (Gift Card) Program and the church gets a donation for each purchase. If you order by Dec 6th (the first Sunday of the month), the gift cards will be here on Dec. 13th to put under the tree. Forms are on the counter in the narthex. You can also go to www.raiseright.com and use our enrollment code of 45F776D958L66 to order direct online.

FAITH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY

December Events

Unless otherwise noted, all events will take place at Lighthouse HQ (513 W. Grand Ave. in Port Washington)

December 6th from 6:30-8:00 pm – "Gift a Child" Christmas Shopping
Lighthouse will be sponsoring five children again through the "Gift a Child" program with the Port Food Pantry. This program supports local families who may be struggling financially by helping to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. Join us as we go shopping



to purchase these gifts for kids in need and help spread some Christmas cheer!



December 13th from 6:30-8:00 pm – Lighthouse Life Night
Lighthouse Life Nights will be offered once a month and will be a mix of games, conversation, and activities centered around a particular topic for each night. This year, we will be highlighting different topics of spiritual growth including prayer, worship, and how faith impacts our daily life.

December 20th from 6:00-8:00 pm – Christmas Movie Night
Put on your ugly sweater or your favorite pjs and settle in for a classic Christmas movie night complete with dinner, popcorn, and hot cocoa.





Wishing you and your families a blessed and joy-filled Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!
The Lighthouse Board



Lighthouse events are open to all students in grades 5-12
Have questions about Lighthouse or want to get involved?
Contact Director Christin Flucke at 262-483-9582 or christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org


Giving Tuesday
SPAGHETTI SUPPER
DECEMBER 1
5 pm to 7:30pm
at Parkside Community UCC
166 W. Dekora St, Saukville
HUGE SILENT AUCTION
DINE IN OR CARRY OUT
Gluten Free & Vegetarian Options Available
MUSIC BY BELLA MUSIK
50/50 RAFFLE
LIGHTHOUSE
YOUTH MINISTRY
$15 per person
10 and under free

CHURCH NEWS

Weather Closings

With winter weather approaching, any church closings due to inclement weather will be posted on the following: FOX6 TV News Milwaukee, AM 920, Newstalk AM 1130 WISN, FM 95.7, FM 97.3, FM 100.7, and FM 106.1, www.tmj4.com, and our Grand Avenue Church Facebook page.

2027 Liturgists Needed

We will be putting together our liturgist schedule for 2027 very soon. If you are not currently a liturgist and would like to serve joyfully as a liturgist next year, please let the office know and we will include you in the liturgist rotation for next year.

Church Survey

Dear Valued Member of GAUMC,

Your Church needs your help! The Committee on Volunteerism is looking for ways GAUMC can reach out and be more caring among ourselves, in our surrounding communities, and in God's world. We are God's resources. This survey is designed to develop a clearer picture of who we are, what we already do, and what our outreach could become. Together we are a powerful force for spreading God's love and our love for humanity and God's other creations. **WATCH FOR YOUR SURVEY IN YOUR MAIL THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY!** Please fill out this Volunteer Survey and return it to the box in the back of the chancel or the church office by January 17th. Each member's input is important! We will get back to you with information about your Church and be interested in your ideas!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Advent Candle Lighting

Would you like to feel the pleasure of lighting one of our Advent Candles during worship this year? Extended Families, Duos, Groups of Friends, Strangers WELCOME!

HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE are taken, but we still need a group to light the CHRIST CANDLE on Christmas Eve!

See Ardelle Dionne, Sue Merrill, or sign-up sheet on hall bulletin board if interested.

Christmas Eve Liturgists

Would you like to read a part of the Miraculous Christmas Story during our December 24th **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at 7 pm? Help us remember, focus, and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas! There are many scriptures to be read! Participate in the excitement! You are wanted here! Contact the Worship Committee. Better yet, JOIN US!

See Ardelle Dionne, Sue Merrill, or sign-up sheet on hall bulletin board if interested.



During this holiday season you can give love lights in memory of or in honor of a loved one or someone who has inspired you in your life. The December 20th and Christmas Eve bulletins will list the love lights given.

We all have friends and relatives that have inspired us, so let's have some fun remembering and honoring those dear to us in a meaningful and beautiful way during the holiday season with a Light of Love.

In honor of _____

_____

_____

and/or

In memory of _____

_____

_____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Given by: _____

Please return this form with your cash or check payable to Grand Avenue UMC by Sunday December 13th. You can place it on the offering plate or mail it to the church at 505 W. Grand Avenue, Port Washington, WI 53074.



United Methodist Corner

Advent is one of my favorite church seasons because it's a time when I am especially filled with a sense of hope for a better world. Advent is more than just preparing ourselves for the birth of a tiny baby. Don't get me wrong. I have nothing against the wonder of Christmas. Even though Luke's Christmas story is a story and not a journalistic reporting of the birth of Jesus, I still find myself with a sense of awe when the angel says to the shepherd, "Do not be afraid for I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." I long for those Christmas's when I was growing up and my parents were still alive." Perhaps you have similar longings at Christmas.

The hope that I am feeling is more than just celebrating the birth that took place 2,000 years ago. It's the hope that we sing together in O Little Town of Bethlehem; "cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today." We, like Mary, can say yes to Christ's invitation to be born in us; to be transformed in love to become new creatures.

Advent should give us great hope for the future. Christ invites us to join him in the world to continue the work of God's kingdom to build a world of peace, unity and love. This hope is not just a passive waiting for God to act. It's about working towards that world we have come to believe that God is leading us in Christ.

For me, Christmas is more than just acting out the Christmas spirit while the trees and decorations are still gracing our living rooms. Christmas is just the beginning of our opportunity to see life and live life in a whole new way as we follow the Prince of Peace. This is not always easy considering the evil and wickedness around us. Sometimes it feels like the other side is winning. But the way of Christ is the way of love and there is no power greater than the power of love.

It is my prayer that Christ will be born anew in you and me this Christmas.

In Christ's Love,
Dave

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Grand Ave. members and friends,

Thank you for your generosity with the Giving Tree collecting hats, scarves, and mittens for Family Promise and Ozaukee County Foster Care. They were both very grateful.

Cathy Guse

Thank you for all your cards, prayers, and well wishes after my knee surgery.

Cathy Guse

FamilyPromise of Ozaukee County

Thank you to Sandy & Mark Grams, John & Cheryl Wozniak, Dave & Cathy Guse, Barb Jones, Nancy Haacke, Jeff Killy, Rama Bharadwaj, Jerry & Cindy Cho, and Lin Lohr for providing meals at the Portlight Shelter Nov 9-13. And thank you to everyone who helped serve or donated toward the Portlight Shelter meals this entire year!



Thank you Pastor Dave for leading us once again in our Advent study. We appreciate all you do to help us prepare for Christmas.

Thank you to the following people for decorating the church and trimming the tree this year. The church looks wonderful!

John & Cheryl Wozniak, Mary Young, Larry Maechtle, Ed & Gwen Frier, Netta Freeland, Debbie Armstrong, and Barb Jones

CALENDAR

December Events

Worship Service	Weekly Sunday at 10:00 am	Sanctuary
AA Meeting	Weekly Wednesday at 8:00 pm	FAC
Private Meeting	Weekly Thursday at 5:30 pm	FAC
ADRC Meal Distribution	Mon – Fri from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Kitchen
Lighthouse Supper/Auction	Tuesday, December 1, 5-7:30 pm	Parkside UCC
Community Prayer Group	Wednesday, December 2, 9:30 am	Christ the King
Awesome Woman's Dinner	Monday, December 7, 5:30 pm	Plier's Full Circle
Social Principles	Tuesday, December 8, 1:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Friendship Club	Wednesday, December 9, 6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
Stockbox Distribution	Tuesday, December 15 at 10:00 am	FAC & Parking Lot
Christmas Carol Sing	Sunday, December 20 at 9:45 am	Sanctuary
Newsletter Article Deadline	Wednesday, December 23	Office
Christmas Eve Service	Thursday, December 24, 7:00 pm	Sanctuary
Book Club	Wednesday, December 30, 1 pm	Fellowship Hall

YOU ARE INVITED TO A CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG!

Sunday, December 20th at 9:45 am (before worship)

Mason and Marc Eernisse are hosting a Christmas Carol Sing before church on the Sunday before Christmas. Plan to come early and sing your favorites!

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

505 W Grand Ave Port Washington WI 53074 262-284-9478 www.portumc.com

Pastor:	Jerry Cho	pastor@portumc.org
Pastoral Assistant:	Dave Guse	senegaldave1@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant:	Stacy Peters	office@portumc.org
Lay Leader:	Dan Benning	bennida01@att.net
Admin Council Chair:	Mark Grams	mgrams@wi.rr.com

Bishop: Dan Schwerin / District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. InSun Lee

Remember Our Endowment Fund

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

RaiseRight Gift Cards

Orders are due at church on the 1st Sunday of each month and gift cards will be ready for pickup at church on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Please remember to include your payment. You can also order on-line at www.raiseright.com using our enrollment code of 45F776D958L66.

Each retailer makes a donation to the church for every gift card purchased.
For a complete list of over 700 participating retailers, go to www.raiseright.com

RETAILER	QTY	TOTAL
Amazon $25		
Amazon $100		
Arby's $10		
AutoZone $25		
Barnes & Noble $10		
Barnes & Noble $25		
Bath & Body Works $10		
Bath & Body Works $25		
Bed Bath & Beyond $25		
BP $50		
BP $100		
Burger King $10		
Cousins Subs $10		
CVS Pharmacy $25		
CVS Pharmacy $100		
Dick's Sporting Goods $25		
Dick's Sporting Goods $100		
Exxon $50		
Fleet Farm $25		
Fleet Farm $100		
Home Depot $25		
Home Depot $100		
Jiffy Lube $30		
Kohl's $25		
Kohl's $100		
Kwik Trip $25		
Kwik Trip $50		
Kwik Trip $100		

RETAILER	QTY	TOTAL
Meijer $25		
Meijer $50		
Meijer $100		
Mobil $50		
Noodles & Company $10		
Panera Bread $10		
Panera Bread $25		
Papa Murphy's Pizza $10		
Pick'n Save(WI) $25		
Pick'n Save(WI) $50		
Pick'n Save(WI) $100		
Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL) $25		
Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL) $50		
Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL) $100		
Qdoba Mexican Grill $25		
Sendik's Food Market $25		
Sendik's Food Market $50		
Sendik's Food Market $100		
Speedway $25		
Speedway $50		
Starbucks $10		
Starbucks $25		
Subway Restaurants $10		
Target $25		
Target $50		
Walgreens $25		
Walmart $25		
Walmart $50		
Walmart $100		

Total number of gift cards ordered: _____

Total amount due: _____

Make checks payable to Grand Ave Church

Name _____ Date: _____